

State Representative
CORY GARDNER
POB 86
Yuma, CO 80759
Home: 970-453-5298
Capitol: 303-866-2906
E-mail: cory.gardner.house@state.co.us



Committee Membership:
Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources
Judiciary

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
80203

September 30, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

IB Docket No. 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set as one of its highest priorities efforts to accelerate developing broadband access across America. As a legislator from the high plains of Colorado, I strongly urge that the Commission put a strong emphasis on solutions that will support broadband coverage in rural parts of America. Despite significant broadband coverage throughout the U.S., many rural areas still have inadequate coverage. I believe that the satellite industry, because of its ability to provide service everywhere, is one sector which can play a vital role in bringing broadband to millions more Americans.

Technology exists that will allow a cell phone to receive a signal from either a cell tower or a satellite. Due to the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems. A hybrid network will allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or to use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative. This assures virtually every location in the U.S. will receive broadband access, especially rural and underserved areas.

Not only could this approach allow for communications to and from virtually any outdoor location, it could also allow first responders to have an affordable, ubiquitous, redundant and interoperable communications system so crucial to homeland security.

I understand that the Commission will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service ("MSS") spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. ("TerreStar") and ICO Satellite Services ("ICO") or take another approach.

I strongly urge the FCC to move expeditiously on this item and to strongly consider spectrum on a "2x10" basis to the satellite operators that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Gardner", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cory Gardner
State Representative
House District 63

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission